

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

2020 FEB 21 FM 12: nn

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

NO. 3: 17-CR-414-N

KAMYAR JAHANRAKHSHAN (1) ALSO KNOWN AS ANDREW RAKHSHAN

FACTUAL RESUME

In support of Kamyar Jahanrakhshan, aka Andrew Rakhshan's plea of guilty to the offense in Count Two of the Superseding Indictment, Jahanrakhshan, the defendant, Franklyn Mickelsen, the defendant's attorney, and the United States of America (the government) stipulate and agree to the following:

ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE

To prove the offense alleged in Count Two of the Superseding Indictment, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, that is, Conspiracy to commit Computer Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(5)(A), the government must prove each of the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:¹

First:

That the defendant and at least one other person made an agreement

to commit the offense of computer fraud, as charged in the

Indictment;

Second:

That the defendant knew the unlawful purpose of the agreement and

joined in it willfully, that is, with the intent to further the unlawful

purpose; and

¹ Fifth Circuit Pattern Jury Instruction, 2019 Edition, 2.15A.

Third:

That one of the conspirators during the existence of the conspiracy knowingly committed at least one of the overt acts described in the indictment, in order to accomplish some object or purpose of the conspiracy.

The elements of Computer Fraud, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(5)(A), are as follows:²

First:

The defendant knowingly caused the transmission of a program,

information, code, or command; and

Second:

By doing so, the defendant intentionally caused damage to a

protected computer without authorization.

Finally, 18 U.S.C. § 1030(c)(4)(A)(i)(I) and (B) provides that the government must prove that the offense caused (or in the case of an attempted offense, would, if completed, have caused) a loss to one or more persons during any one-year period aggregating at least \$5,000 in value.

STIPULATED FACTS

1. Kamyar Jahanrakhshan, aka Andrew Rakhshan admits and agrees that starting in or about December 2014, and continuing through in or about August 2015, in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere, defendant Kamyar Jahanrakhshan, also known as Kamyar Jahan Rakhshan, Andy or Andrew Rakhshan, Andy or Andrew Kamyar (or Kamiar or Kamier) Rakhshan, knowingly and intentionally agreed and conspired with other individuals known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to

² Adapted from Fed. Crim. Jury Instr. 7th Cir. 1030(a)(5)(A) (2019 ed.).

knowingly cause the transmission of a program, information, code, and command, and as a result of such conduct, intentionally caused damage without authorization to a protected computer, and by said transmission cause a loss aggregating at least \$ 5,000 or more during a one-year period, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(5)(A) (18 U.S.C. §1030(c)(4)(A)(i)(I) and (B).

All in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371.

- 2. The defendant targeted a legal aggregation site that posted public information regarding or related to his prior criminal activity. He initially contacted this site and requested that the site remove a legal opinion pertaining to this prior criminal activity.
- 3. When the targeted site refused to remove the public information, the defendant offered a bribe to encourage compliance.
- 4. When the targeted sites rejected the bribe, the defendant threatened to launch a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks on the site, until they complied.
- 5. The defendant researched and sought out individuals or entities to assist him launch the DDoS attacks, such as stresser or booter services like ItsFluffy and VMDeploy (Ragebooter). The services essentially allowed the defendant to transmit a program, information, code, or command, which in combination with the amplification services offered by his coconspirators, would overwhelm the targeted site or its surrounding infrastructure with a flood of Internet traffic, and cause a disruption of services or a site failure.

- 6. Between January 20, 2015, and January 26, 2015, the defendant with the agreement and assistance of his coconspirators, launched a successful DDoS attacks of the Leagle.com site hosted at Softlayer Technologies Inc., taking down the site until Leagle.com finally complied and removed the opinion.
- 7. The defendant agrees that the launching of the DDoS attacks caused a loss to one or more persons during any one-year period aggregating at least \$5,000 in value.
- 8. The defendant agrees that the defendant committed all the essential elements of the offense(s). This factual resume is not intended to be a complete accounting of all the facts and events related to the offense charged in this case. The limited purpose of this statement of facts is to demonstrate that a factual basis exists to support the defendant's guilty plea to Count Two of the Superseding Indictment.

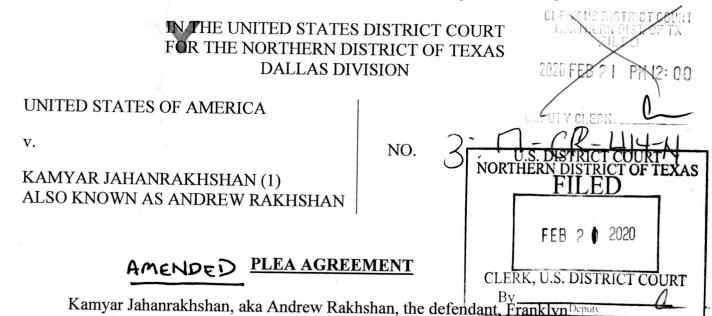
 AGREED TO AND STIPULATED on this day of February 2020.

KAMYAR JAHANRAKHSMAN

aka Andrew Rakhshan

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant



Mickelsen, the defendant's attorney, and the United States of America (the government) agree as follows:

- 1. **Rights of the defendant**: The defendant understands that the defendant has the rights:
 - a. to plead not guilty;
 - b. to have a trial by jury;
 - c. to have the defendant's guilt proven beyond a reasonable doubt;
 - d. to confront and cross-examine witnesses and to call witnesses in the defendant's defense; and
 - e. against compelled self-incrimination.
- 2. Waiver of rights and plea of guilty: The defendant waives these rights and pleads guilty to the offense alleged in Count Two of the Superseding Indictment, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, that is, Conspiracy to commit Computer Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(5)(A). The defendant understands the nature and

elements of the crime to which he is pleading guilty, and agrees that the factual resume he has signed is true and will be submitted as evidence.

- 3. **Sentence**: The maximum penalties the Court can impose include:
 - a. imprisonment for a period not to exceed 5 years;
 - b. a fine not to exceed \$100,000, or twice any pecuniary gain to the defendant or loss to the victim(s);
 - c. a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years, which may be mandatory under the law and will follow any term of imprisonment. If the defendant violates the conditions of supervised release, the defendant could be imprisoned for the entire term of supervised release;
 - d. a mandatory special assessment of \$ 100;
 - e. restitution to victims or to the community, which may be mandatory under the law, and which the defendant agrees may include restitution arising from all relevant conduct, not limited to that arising from the offense of conviction alone;
 - f. costs of incarceration and supervision; and
 - g. forfeiture of property.
- 4. **Immigration consequences**: The defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses. The defendant understands this may include the offense to which he is pleading guilty, and for purposes of this plea agreement, the defendant assumes the offense is a removable offense. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a

separate proceeding, however, and the defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of the defendant's conviction on his immigration status. The defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea of guilty may entail, even if the consequence is his automatic removal from the United States.

- 5. Court's sentencing discretion and role of the Guidelines: The defendant understands that the sentence in this case will be imposed by the Court after consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. The guidelines are not binding on the Court, but are advisory only. The defendant has reviewed the guidelines with his attorney, but understands no one can predict with certainty the outcome of the Court's consideration of the guidelines in this case. The defendant will not be allowed to withdraw his plea if his sentence is higher than expected. The defendant fully understands that the actual sentence imposed (so long as it is within the statutory maximum) is solely in the discretion of the Court.
- 6. **Mandatory special assessment**: The defendant agrees to pay to the U.S. District Clerk the amount of \$100 in satisfaction of the mandatory special assessment in this case.
- 7. **Defendant's agreement**: The defendant shall give complete and truthful information and/or testimony concerning his participation in the offense of conviction.

 Upon demand, the defendant shall submit a personal financial statement under oath and submit to interviews by the government and the U.S. Probation Office regarding his capacity to satisfy any fines or restitution. The defendant expressly authorizes the United

States Attorney's Office to immediately obtain a credit report on him in order to evaluate his ability to satisfy any financial obligation imposed by the Court. The defendant fully understands that any financial obligation imposed by the Court, including a restitution order and/or the implementation of a fine, is due and payable immediately. In the event the Court imposes a schedule for payment of restitution, the defendant agrees that such a schedule represents a minimum payment obligation and does not preclude the U.S. Attorney's Office from pursuing any other means by which to satisfy his full and immediately enforceable financial obligation. The defendant understands that he has a continuing obligation to pay in full as soon as possible any financial obligation imposed by the Court.

- 8. The defendant further agrees to relinquish all interest in the property identified in Attachment A, and agrees to waive all his legal right, title, and ownership interest in the property. The defendant agrees not to assert any ownership, proprietary, or possessory interest in the property identified in Attachment A at any time in the future. The defendant agrees to take all steps, as requested, to pass clear title to this property to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, including executing any and all documents necessary to transfer all interest he has or holds in this property.
- 9. **Government's agreement**: The government will not bring any additional charges against the defendant based upon the conduct underlying and related to his plea of guilty. The government will file a Supplemental Plea Agreement in this case, as is routinely done in every case, even though there may or may not be any additional terms. The government will dismiss, after sentencing, the original Indictment and any remaining

charges in the pending Superseding Indictment. This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting authorities, nor does it prohibit any civil or administrative proceeding against the defendant or any property.

- 10. **Violation of agreement**: The defendant understands that if he violates any provision of this agreement, or if his guilty plea is vacated or withdrawn, the government will be free from any obligations of the agreement and free to prosecute him for all offenses of which it has knowledge. In such event, the defendant waives any objections based upon delay in prosecution. If the plea is vacated or withdrawn for any reason other than a finding that it was involuntary, the defendant also waives objection to the use against him of any information or statements he has provided to the government, and any resulting leads.
- 11. Voluntary plea: This plea of guilty is freely and voluntarily made and is not the result of force or threats, or of promises apart from those set forth in this plea agreement. There have been no guarantees or promises from anyone as to what sentence the Court will impose.

- defendant waives the defendant's rights, conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 1291 and 18 U.S.C. § 3742, to appeal the conviction, sentence, fine and order of restitution or forfeiture in an amount to be determined by the district court. The defendant further waives his right to contest the conviction, sentence, fine and order of restitution or forfeiture in any collateral proceeding, including proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The defendant, however, reserves the rights (a) to bring a direct appeal of (i) a sentence exceeding the statutory maximum punishment or (ii) an arithmetic error at sentencing; (b) to challenge the voluntariness of his plea of guilty or this waiver; and (c) to bring a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.
- legal and factual aspects of this case with his attorney and is fully satisfied with that attorney's legal representation. The defendant has received from his attorney explanations satisfactory to him concerning each paragraph of this plea agreement, each of his rights affected by this agreement, and the alternatives available to him other than entering into this agreement. Because the defendant concedes that he is guilty, and after conferring with his attorney, the defendant has concluded that it is in his best interest to enter into this plea agreement and all its terms, rather than to proceed to trial in this case.
- 14. **Entirety of agreement**: This document is a complete statement of the parties' agreement and may not be modified unless the modification is in writing and signed by all parties. This agreement supersedes any and all other promises, representations, understandings, and agreements that are or were made between the

parties at any time before the guilty plea is entered in court. No promises or representations have been made by the United States except as set forth in writing in this plea agreement.

AGREED TO AND SIGNED this 2 day of February 2020.

ERIN NEALY COX

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

CANDINA'S. HEATH

Assistant United States Attorney candina.heath@usdoj.gov
Texas State Bar. No. 09347450
1100 Commerce Street, Third Floor Dallas, Texas 75242

Telephone: 214-659-8600 Fax: 214-659-8805

ERRIN MARTIN

Deputy Criminal Chief

I have read or had read to me this plea agreement and have carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I fully understand it and voluntarily agree to it.

KAMYAR AHANRAKHSHAN

aka Andrew Rakhshan

Defendant

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I am the defendant's attorney. I have carefully reviewed every part of this plea agreement with the defendant. To my knowledge and belief, my client's decision to enter into this plea agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

FRANKLYN MICKELSEN
Attorney for Defendant

2.21.20

Date

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EVIDENCE RECOVERY LOG

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Attachment A

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David Bukoski Interview 11/29/18

Partial Interview Transcription Beginning 17:20

SA Peterson: So who do you use for servers?

Bukoski: There is some person in Romania. But I buy from, I'm pretty sure, American,

Ampnode.

SA Peterson: You buy from Ampnode?

Bukoski: Yes, I just did it originally to find out where he hosted because he was just a reseller,

he doesn't actually own it. Then I kept it.

SA Peterson: What do you know about Ampnode?

Bukoski: Apparently his names Mike Andrews, that's on his email but I'm going to go off that.

He's definitely was from HackForums at one point.

Agent Rudd: You talked to him before?

Bukoski: Yeah, but just on email.

SA Peterson: Do you know what his Hackforums nickname is?

Bukoski: I couldn't tell you.

SA Rudd: How do you know he is American?

Bukoski: He definitely seems American. So, and it's gmail, so if you guys want you can write up

one of your Subpoenas I know you can do. I know the FBI is the FBI.

SA Peterson: How many servers do you normally get from Ampnode?

Bukoski: One.

SA Peterson: And how much throughput do you think you get get from one server?

Bukoski: Says one gigabit but it is a couple hundred Megabits.

SA Peterson: And that's enough for your customers?

Bukoski: I mean, nowadays I don't care to provide them anymore, so they're having to deal with

it usually.

SA Peterson: How much does Ampnode charge for a server?

Bukoski: \$155 minimum, and it goes up to like \$400.

SA Peterson: Per month?

Bukoski: Yeah, for their servers.

SA Peterson: What kind of payment does he accept?

Paypal and Bitcoin. His Paypals are kind of throw-aways, if you know what that means.

SA Peterson: Yeah.

Bukoski: Not real.